Dixie 634 ~~Powell~~
Indepl

---

208 Forestry Building, C.S.C.
Fort Collins, Colorado
August 19, 1942

MEMORANDUM ON BLACK HILLS BEETLE SITUATION ON THE POWELL NATIONAL FOREST, August 1942

N. D. Wygant

On August 10 and 11 an examination was made of the East Fork of the Sevier River to determine from a "red top" reconnaissance survey the advisibility of a fall survey. This area was examined on June 30 but at that time it was thought that the infested trees had not faded sufficiently to be detected from a distance, therefore the area was examined more carefully on August 10. The latter examination was made in company with Ranger Lowell Farmer who is well acquainted with the past control work on the Powell.

Most of the East Fork area has been progressively covered with control work during the past two or three years. Of the trees attacked in August 1939, 18,084 trees were treated; of the 1940 attacked trees, 5,085 were treated; and of the 1941 attacked trees, 1,329 were treated. A few of these trees were outside the East Fork area. The treatment of 780 trees in the Crawford-Podunk unit during the fall of 1941 completed the coverage of the East Fork area. These figures and the annual survey figures show the success of reducing the serious epidemic of 1939-40 to the present low loss. Judging from past memoranda on examinations of the work by members of this Bureau and the present examination, the Forest Service deserves commendation for the efficient work.

A road traverse was taken up the East Fork drainage as far as Sisler Creek and up the side drainage of Blue Fly to the head of Proctor Canyon. The area was viewed from several vantage points with field glasses. Few additional "red tops" showed up on August 10 over those seen on June 30 and July 1. On June 30 the general impression was that more faded trees were showing up in the head (south end of the area) of the East Fork than in the lower part (north end of the area). The recent examination does not bear this out and it is believed that faded Douglas fir killed by the Douglas fir beetle may have been confused in some cases with ponderosa pine when viewed from a distance. There are a number of scattered "red top" trees throughout the area and a group of 10 trees were seen on the east side of the Tropic Reservoir. A group on the west side of Proctor Canyon was viewed from a distance, but the east side of the unit was quite free from "red tops."

Recommendations

The July 1 examination of trees being treated in Bryce Canyon National Park revealed a very heavy brood being produced in the 1941 attacked trees, and since a grouping tendency is present, it seems advisable to survey the area in September 1942 to determine the status of the 1942 infestation. In addition to the East Fork area, Horse Creek, Sweetwater, Greens, and Pines should also be surveyed. These units are quite small and have been treated in the past except for Horse Creek. The 1941 survey indicated that there were 160 infested trees on 2,780 acres. A 5-percent survey seems advisable on most of the area; however, on the small units 10 percent may be necessary, and on the larger areas 2½ percent may be adequate. The percent necessary to obtain a reliable estimate should be decided at the time the survey is being made.

Supervisor Park indicated that Mr. Alvey who has made the surveys during the past few years and has had charge of the control work on the Powell will be available for the survey this year. It is hoped that he will be available for the survey because it is particularly desirable in this case to have someone who is thoroughly acquainted with the area and past work so as to pick up all areas that may have been missed in the past and to obtain reliable estimates to compare with last year's figures.

In conclusion it may be stated that the situation looks quite favorable, but it probably will be a good investment to make an adequate survey of the area to assure us of the status of the infestation and to protect the values invested in bringing the infestation to the present condition.